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IN THE WORLD OF MORTAL MEN, HE IS **JIM CORRIGAN**, HARD-BOILED POLICE DETECTIVE--BUT TO THE VERMIN OF THE UNDERWORLD HE IS **THE SPECTRE**, AWESOME AVENGER OF EVIL, AN EARTHBOUND GHOST WHO PUNISHES EVIL WITH A FEARSOME VENGEANCE FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE. WE DARE YOU TO FACE THE BLOOD-CHILLING SAGA OF...

THE GASMEN AND... THE SPECTRE

NGYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

SCRIPT• MICHAEL FLEISHER SCRIPT CONTINUITY• RUSSELL CARLEY EDITOR• JOE ORLANDO

J-3698

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CROWDS THRONG THE ANNUAL CUSTOM CAR SHOW AT THE NEW YORK COLISEUM...

THE FABULOUS ORLAND

I DIDN'T KNOW DADDY LIKED TO TAKE PICTURES OF CARS, MOMMY!

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE HAD A CAMERA BEFORE TODAY, DEAR!

NOW, MARIAN!

HEY, DADDY! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE SOME PICTURES OF THOSE FUNNY LOOKING MEN!?

H-HUNH!?!

LAND SAKES! I KNOW CLOTHING STYLES HAVE GOTTEN PRETTY BIZARRE, BUT THOSE OUTFITS ARE --

GAS! THAT,,, THAT'S GAS!

WHOOSH!

AAAAGH!

M-MOMMY! I C-CAN'T,,, BREATHE,,,!

NGYAAA!

GASP!

MEANWHILE, ONLY A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, IN THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF *NEWSBEAT* MAGAZINE...

WHAAT!? YOU... YOU MEAN YOU ACTUALLY EXPECT ME TO *PRINT* THIS?

OF *COURSE* I EXPECT YOU TO PRINT IT...

...EVERY WORD OF IT IS *TRUE!* I *SAW* HIM WITH MY OWN TWO *EYES!*

LOOK, EARL! I KNOW YOU'RE A FINE *WRITER!* BUT SO ARE THE *BROTHERS GRIMM!* AND YOU'LL NOTICE WE'RE NOT PUBLISHING ANY OF *THEIR* FAIRY TALES IN *NEWSBEAT* MAGAZINE!

BOB, LOOK--

ALL I'D HAVE TO *DO* IS PUBLISH A STORY ABOUT AN ANGRY *SPOOK* WITH A GREEN *CAPE* WHO FLIES AROUND *NEW YORK* USING HIS MAGICAL POWERS TO KILL *CROOKS!*

BUT, BOB, I'VE SEEN--

AH, YES! THAT'S THE MOST ENGAGING THING *ABOUT* YOUR SPOOK! HE NEVER SHOWS HIMSELF TO ANYBODY BUT *YOU!* MAYBE HE'S A FAN OF YOUR *WRITING!* OR MAYBE--

EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING, BOB, BUT SOMETHING *HOT* JUST CAME IN OVER THE *WIRE*... SOME SORT OF *MASSACRE* OVER AT THE *AUTO* SHOW!

BEAT

?

HEAR *THAT*, CRAWFORD? A *MASSACRE!* NOW GET OVER TO THE *COLISEUM* AND BRING ME A STORY I CAN *PRINT*... INSTEAD OF SOME BLASTED *GHOST* STORY!

PRESENTLY...

POISON GAS, LT. CORRIGAN! THEY NEVER HAD A CHANCE!

LOOKS TO US LIKE IT MIGHT'VE BEEN *PHOSGENE!* KRAUTS USED THE STUFF DURING THE FIRST *WORLD WAR!*

OH, GREAT! NOW THE LOONIES ARE INTO CHEMICAL *WARFARE!*

WHATTA *YOU* GOT, PETE?

ZILCH, LIEUTENANT! PLENTY'A VALUABLE *CARS* HERE, BUT NUTHIN' WAS *TAKEN!*

WHAT... WHAT ON EARTH *HAPPENED* DOWN HERE?

OH, JUST A ROUTINE *MASS MURDER,* CRAWFORD... FIFTY OR SIXTY PEOPLE *DEAD!*

TICKET RECEIPTS WEREN'T TOUCHED *EITHER,* LIEUTENANT!

IF THESE BIRDS HAD A *MOTIVE,* WE SURE CAN'T FIND IT!

YOU'RE SHOWING YOUR *AGE,* SERGEANT! THESE DAYS YOU DON'T--

LT. CORRIGAN!

HARDLY *WORTH* THE SATURATION *PRESS* COVERAGE YOU *GHOULS* FROM THE *MEDIA'LL* UNDOUBTEDLY *DEVOTE* TO IT!

DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHO *DID* THIS HORRIBLE THING?

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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[A] White with red

[B] White with blue

[C] Blue with gold

[D] Red with white

STRATO STR

NOT YET! BUT DON'T WORRY! WE WILL! PEOPLE WHO DO STUFF LIKE THIS USUALLY LIKE TO STEP FORWARD EVENTUALLY TO CLAIM *CREDIT* FOR THEIR *WORK!*

INDEED, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, INSIDE AN ABANDONED ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY HIGH ATOP A CRAGGY CLIFF...

WELL, COMMANDOS, ARE YOU READY TO UNDERGO YOUR *DEBRIEFING* ON *OPERATION GREEN CLOUD?*

SURE THING, BOSS! IT WENT LIKE CLOCKWORK!

PIG! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN HOW TO ADDRESS YOUR COMMANDING *OFFICER?* "THE OPERATION WAS COMPLETED WITH PRECISION, *SIR!*"

YES, SIR! THAT'S WHAT I MEANT TO SAY, SIR!

THAT'S BETTER! WERE THE ENEMY FORCES COMPLETELY *DEFEATED?*

ENEMY *FORCES?* THEY WAS JUST--

UH, YES, FIELD MARSHALL! THE, UH, ENEMY ENCAMPMENT WAS WIPED *OUT,* SIR!

THAT'S GOOD... VERY GOOD! AND DID YOU ENCOUNTER ANY HOSTILE ***ACTION***?

UH, NO, SIR! NOT REALLY! COUPLA UNIFORMED SECURITY GUARDS... BUT THEY WAS JUST A COUPLA OLD GAWKERS, SIR!

GOOD! YOU HAVE ALL PERFORMED ***SUPERBLY!*** NOW IT IS TIME TO INITIATE... ***PHASE TWO!***

NOW IT IS THE FOLLOWING MORNING. AN EMERGENCY CRISIS MEETING IS UNDERWAY IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE...

WELL, YOU'VE ALL READ THE LETTER THAT ARRIVED THIS MORNING!

THIS ***FIELD MARSHALL OFFAL***, WHO-EVER HE IS, SAYS THAT UNLESS THE CITY PAYS HIM A ***BILLION*** DOLLARS IN THOUSAND-DOLLAR ***BILLS***...

...HE'LL ORDER HIS SO-CALLED "***SHOCK TROOPS***" TO CARRY OUT ANOTHER "GUERRILLA ACTION" AGAINST THE ***CITY!***

A BILLION ***DOLLARS!*** Whew! EVEN THE WATERGATE ***BURGLARS*** DIDN'T HAVE ***THAT*** KIND OF MONEY!

THIS IS NOT A JOKING ***MATTER***, SIMMS!

I KNOW, SIR! I-I'M SORRY!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

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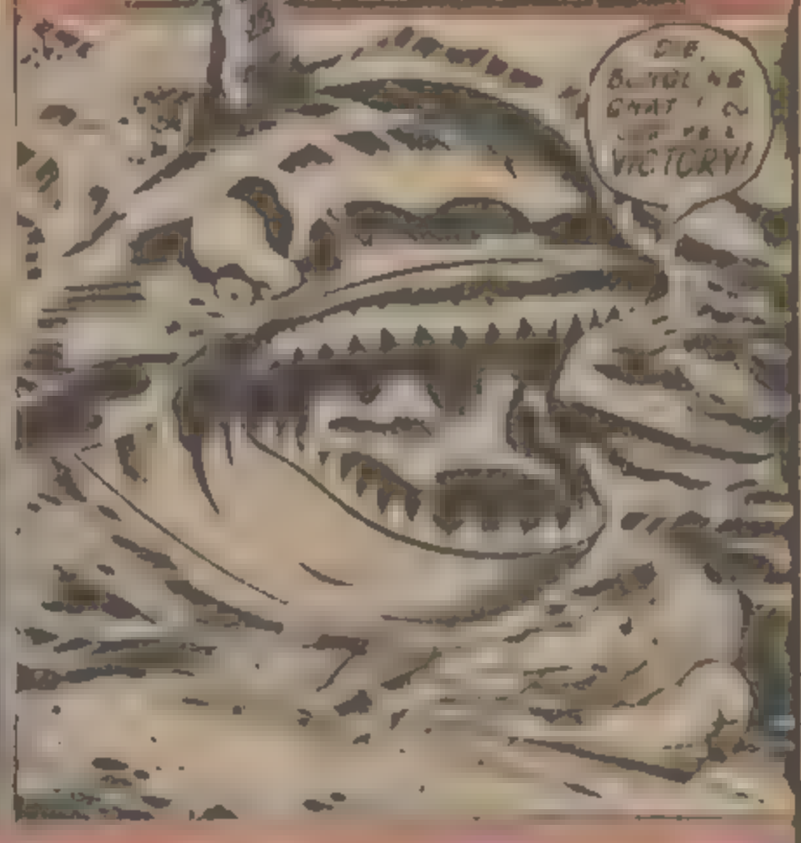
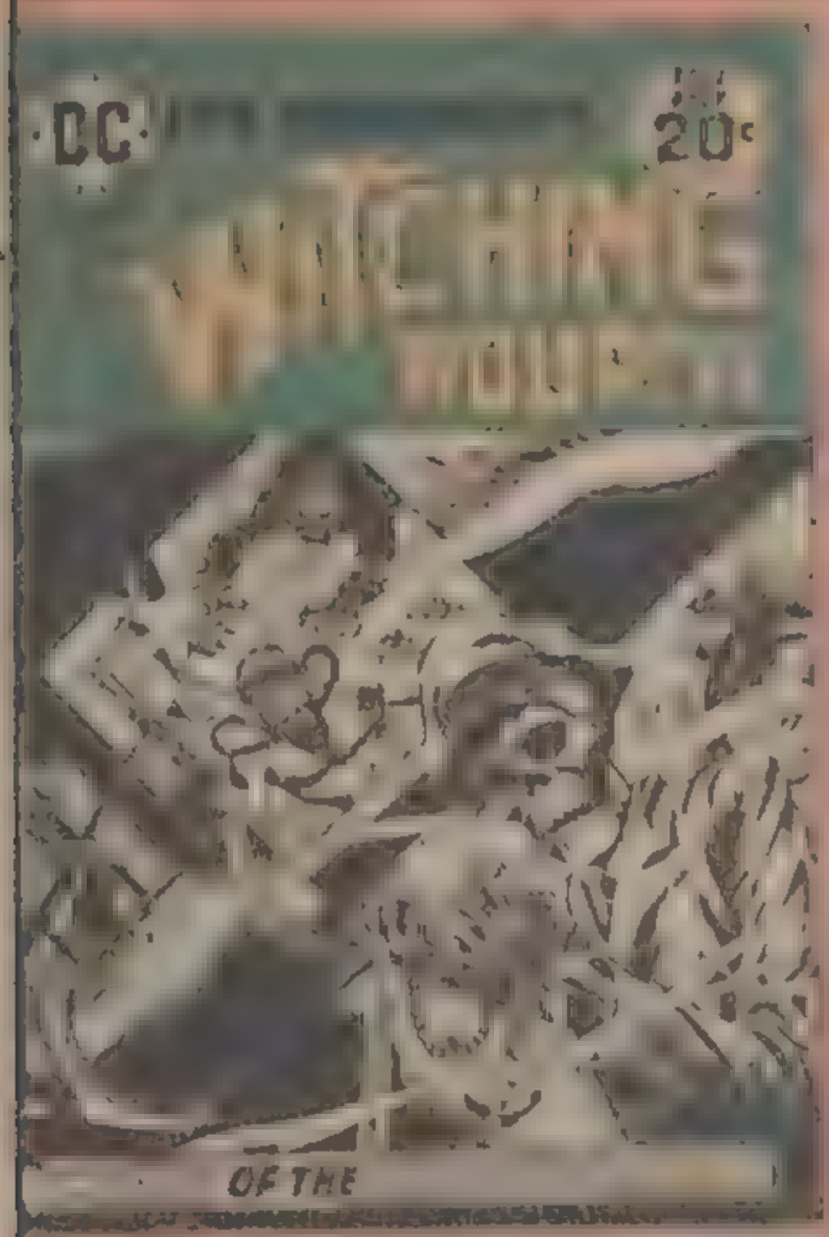
THE LAST BOY ON EARTH!



DC 20¢ WATCHING YOU!



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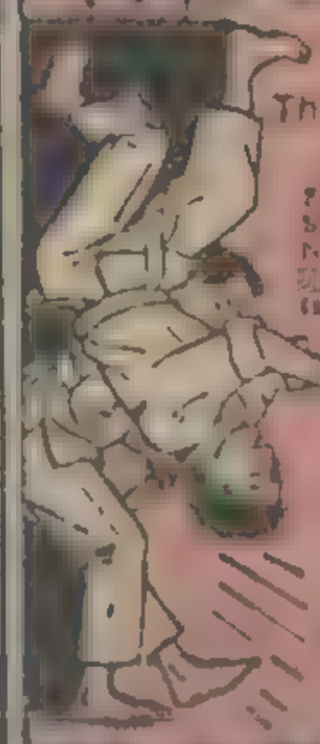
FEAR NO MAN with KUNG FU



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FRANKLY, I DON'T THINK WE REALLY HAVE ANY **CHOICE!** THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY READY TO CARRY **OUT** THEIR BLOOD-CURDLING THREAT! THEY'VE MADE THAT **CLEAR!**

I'M AFRAID WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE THEM THE MONEY AND... AND THEN PRAY WE CAN CATCH THEM **LATER!**

SIR, PLEASE!

YOU **CAN'T** GIVE **IN** TO THESE TERRORISTS! IF YOU DO, YOU'LL UNLEASH A WHOLE **WAVE** OF--

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, LIEUTENANT! BUT WE'VE BEEN **THROUGH** ALL THAT! THESE MANIACS HAVE ALREADY KILLED TOO MANY **PEOPLE!** I'M SORRY, BUT WE JUST CAN'T TAKE THE **CHANCE!**

MR. MAYOR, AT LEAST LET **ME** DELIVER THE **MONEY!** MAYBE I CAN FIND SOME WAY TO **NAIL** THEM!

ALL RIGHT, LIEUTENANT! I'LL GO THAT FAR! BUT BE **CAREFUL!** FOR GOD'S **SAKE,** MAN, BE **CAREFUL!** A LOT OF PEOPLE'S LIVES ARE AT STAKE!

AND SO, LATE THAT AFTERNOON, IN A REMOTE WOODED AREA...

WELL, **I'M** HERE ON TIME, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE--

WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! LOOKS LIKE FUN CITY'S FAVORITE *FIELD MARSHALL* HAS HIMSELF AN *AIR FORCE* IN *ADDITION* TO AN ARMY!

MOMENTS LATER...

YA GOT THE *MONEY*?

UH HUH!

THEN GET *IN!* YOU'RE GOIN' *ALONG!* IF ANY COPS TRY T' *FOLLOW* US, ALL *YOU'LL* BE GOOD FOR IS *HAMBURGER!* UNDERSTAND?

YUP! I UNDERSTAND!

BUT AS THE HELICOPTER RISES INTO THE AIR...

OH, *WOW!* I HADN'T COUNTED ON A *HELICOPTER!*

I SURE HOPE THEY DON'T FLY ANYWHERE I CAN'T FOLLOW IN MY *CAR!*

SHORTLY...

SO FAR, SO GOOD! I'VE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP THEM IN SIGHT!

NO OTHER REPORTERS HAVE BEEN FOOLHARDY ENOUGH TO FOLLOW CORRIGAN! SO IT'LL BE AN EXCLUSIVE FOR *NEWSBEAT* IF I DON'T GET MYSELF INTO MORE TROUBLE THAN I CAN (GULP) HANDLE!

ABOUT A HALF HOUR LATER...

THIS IS IT!

IT'S BEEN REAL PLEASANT *KNOWIN'* YA, FELLA! BUT I'M AFRAID THIS'S WHERE WE SAY *GOODBYE!* YA SEE, THE BOSS IS A LITTLE *WHACKO...*

...BUT HE AIN'T *SO* WHACKO AS TO LET GUYS *LIVE* WHEN THEY SEEN THE LOCATION OF OUR *HIDEOUT!*

THE DEADLY GREEN GAS ENFOLDS JIM CORRIGAN IN ITS LETHAL, SUFFOCATING EMBRACE, THEN PARTS EERILY TO REVEAL THE CHILLING VISAGE OF... *THE SPECTRE...*

HUNH !?

...A SUPERNATURAL AVENGER FROM BEYOND THE BORDERS OF LIFE AND DEATH. HIS FEARSOME MISSION: THE EXTERMINATION OF ALL EVIL...

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE OBSERVATORY...

SOON WE WILL HAVE THE *MONEY...* AND THE FIRST *CAMPAIGN* OF OUR GREAT WORLD *REVOLUTION* WILL BE CROWNED IN *TRIUMPH!*

WITH ONE BILLION DOLLARS, WE CAN--

B-BOSS, I-I MEAN, FIELD MARSHALL OFFAL! WH-WHAT IN B-BLAZES IS *THAT?*

GASP!

BLAM BLAM

H-HE IS AN ENEMY SPY! E-EXECUTE HIM! SWIFTLY!

BLAM BLAM

W-WE'RE TRYIN'! B-BUT HE D-DON'T EXECUTE SO EASY! TH-THE SLUGS'RE GOIN' RIGHT THROUGH HIM!

O-OH, MY GOD! L-LOOK!!

I-IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!

IN THE SPECTRAL NETHERWORLD WHERE I MUST DWELL...

...ALL THINGS ARE... POSSIBLE...!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

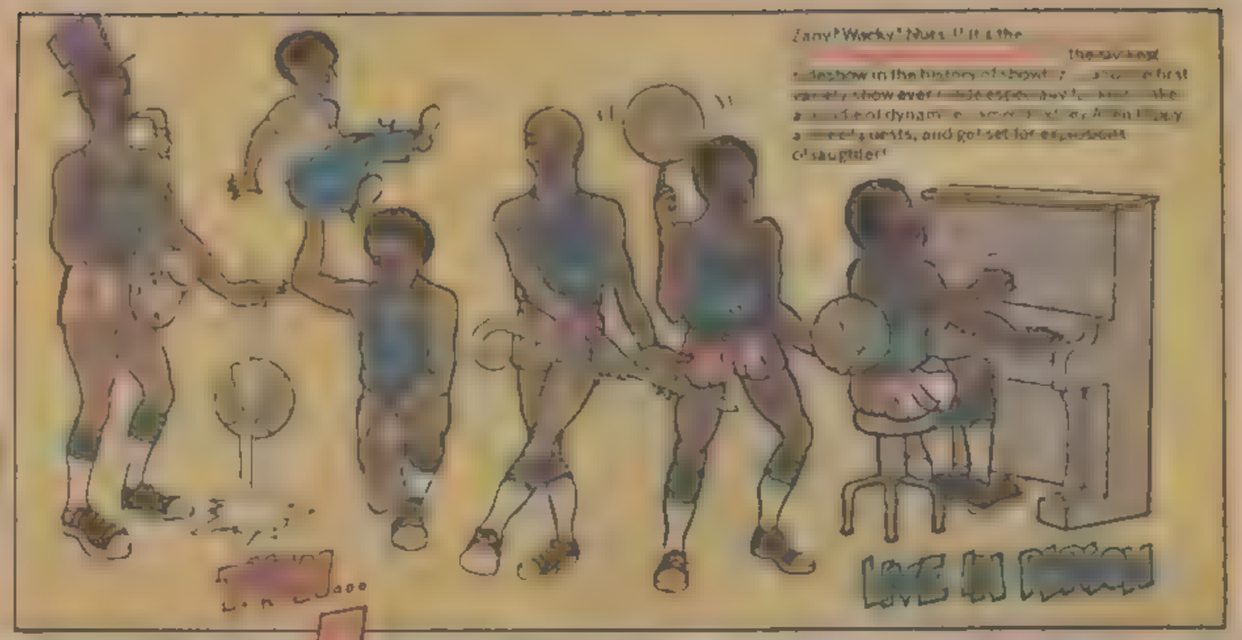
EVEN A GREAT MILITARY GENIUS SUCH AS I... MUST RECOGNIZE THE NECESSITY FOR AN OCCASIONAL... RETREAT!

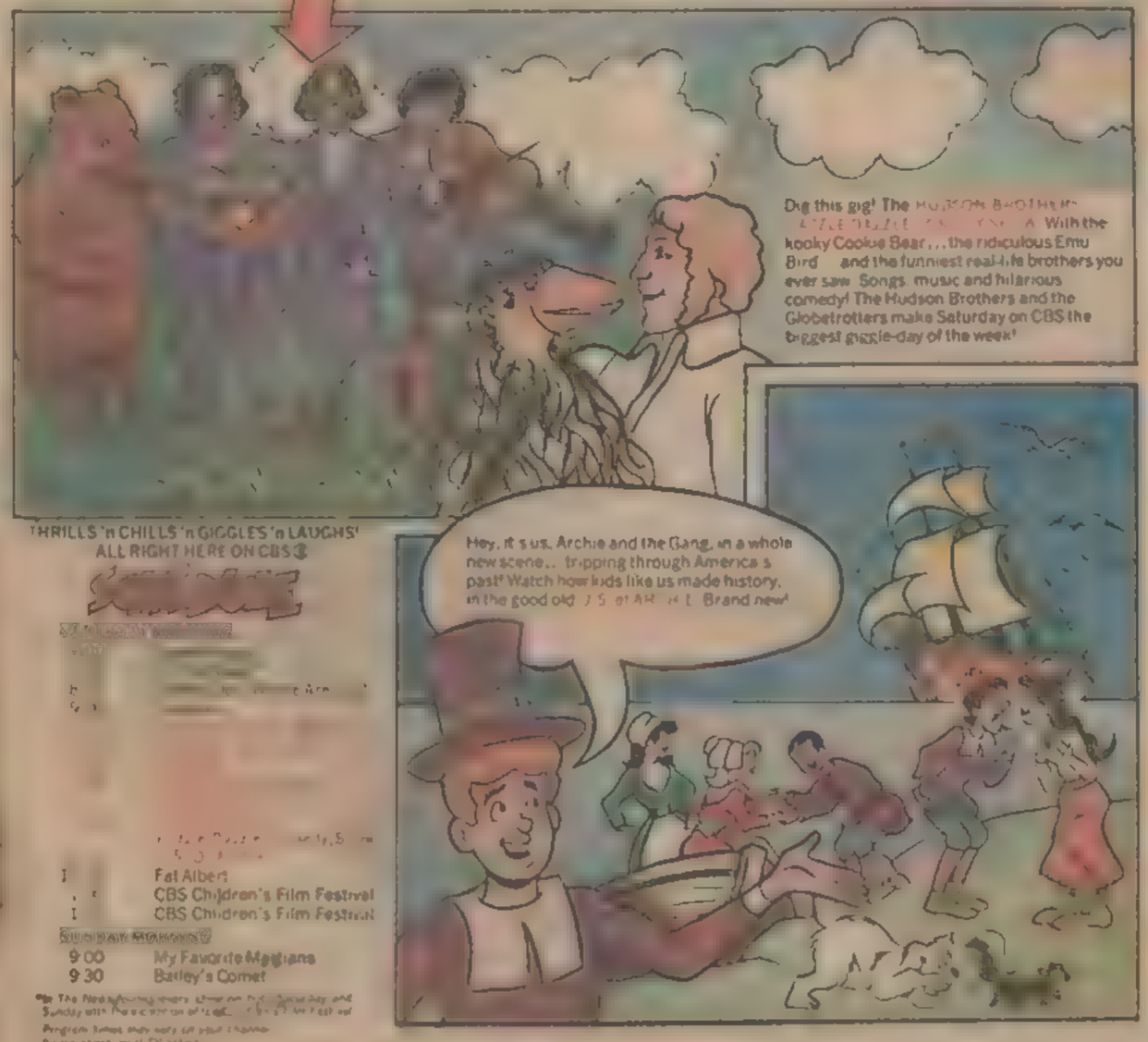
JUST AS NAPOLEON RETREATED FROM RUSSIA, SO MUST I-

WHA-!?

SOME MEN WILL ALWAYS CHOOSE THE PATH OF... EVIL...!

SHAZAM! IT'S SOCKO SATURDAY ON CBS!
The incredible Billy Batson ..guided by 7 wise men in his quest for universal justice and understanding . who, in times of need utters the secret word ..., and ZAP! becomes the world's mightiest mortal endowed with super powers! For gripping action and exciting adventures, don't miss , every Saturday!
g into the future with the in the year 00 , rockin and rollin from Mars to Venus with outer space friends and outta sight songs!


Zany! Wacky! Nuts!! It's the the zaniest variety showcase in the history of show , the first variety show ever to feature the a of dynamic , and get set for explosive d of laughter!


Dig this gig! The With the kooky Cookie Bear, . . . the ridiculous Emu Bird and the funniest real-life brothers you ever saw. Songs, music and hilarious comedy! The Hudson Brothers and the Globetrotters make Saturday on CBS the biggest giggle-day of the week!
Hey, it's us, Archie and the Gang, in a whole new scene... tripping through America's past! Watch how kids like us made history, in the good old ' S of AR ' L Brand new!

THRILLS 'n CHILLS 'n GIGGLES 'n LAUGHS! ALL RIGHT HERE ON CBS!

SATURDAY MORNING

Fat Albert
CBS Children's Film Festival
CBS Children's Film Festival

SUNDAY MORNING

9:00 My Favorite Martians
9:30 Bailey's Comet

Program times may vary on your channel. Please check local TV listings.

BUT BEYOND THE SHADOWS OF THEIR BLACK SOULS BURNS THE WHITE-HOT FLAME OF UNEARTHLY... VENGEANCE..!

STOP! I AM A FIELD MARSHALL...AN **OFFICER**... AND THEREFORE A PRISONER OF WAR!

AND THAT VENGEANCE IS FINAL...

YOU MUST TREAT ME ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF THE GENEVA CON--

AAAGH!

...AWFUL...

...INESCAPABLE...!

AGH!

THE TERRIFIED SHRIEKS OF THE HIDEOUS ARCH-FIEND FADES INTO A GHASTLY ECHO AS THE GIANT SQUID STUFFS ITS KICKING, SQUIRMING VICTIM INTO ITS GAPING, PULSATING MAW...

AAAH

WHILE ON THE BEACH...

HERE'S THE HELICOPTER! THEY MUST'VE---

TH-THAT SCREAM!

17

S-SUPPOSE IT'S **CORRIGAN** SCREAMING? I'D--

HUNH-!?!

NH-WHY I-IT'S THAT **TERRORIST** I SAW... THE ONE WHO PICKED UP CORRIGAN IN THE **HELICOPTER!**

EITHER THAT'S A **STATUE** OF HIM, OR... OR THAT MYSTERIOUS SPECTRAL **FORCE** I ONCE ENCOUNTERED HAS TURNED HIM INTO **STONE!**

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER **NOW!** RIGHT NOW, I'VE GOT TO FIND **CORRIGAN!**

EARL CRAWFORD RACES FRANTICALLY ACROSS THE SANDY BEACH, AND FINALLY...

LT. CORRIGAN! ARE YOU ALL **RIGHT?**

CRAWFORD! WHAT THE BLAZES ARE **YOU** DOING HERE?!

MY... MY NOSE FOR **NEWS**, I GUESS! I **FOLLOWED** YOU! WHAT HAPPENED?

YOU'LL GET THE STORY WHEN THE **OTHER** REPORTERS GET IT, CRAWFORD! NOT BEFORE!

LIEUTENANT, DID... DID YOU BY ANY CHANCE SEE SOME SORT OF... OF STRANGE **FORCE** AROUND HERE WHILE YOU--

NOPE!

THE END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FOURTH WEEK IN OCTOBER

...AND FINALLY, MR. AMBASSADOR, I WOULD LIKE YOU TO MEET THE *KING* AND *QUEEN* OF FAIR ATLANTIS, *AQUAMAN* AND *MERA*...

THIS IS *INDEED* A PLEASURE! I'VE BEEN--

WAIT! WHAT'S *THAT?*

ANOTHER AQUAMAN! *HOW* IN--?

AQUAMAN SMASH

"The KING IS DEAD; LONG LIVE THE KING!"

SCRIPT BY STEVE SKEATES — ART BY [illegible]!

OUR SAGA BEGINS WITHIN THE ROYAL CHAMBERS OF THE KING OF ATLANTIS...

...AND ONCE THIS ROBOT IS ACTIVATED, THERE WILL BE ***NO WAY*** THAT THE ORDINARY MAN CAN TELL IT FROM THE "REAL THING"...

...IT WILL BE ABLE TO PERFORM ALL ***SORTS*** OF BORING ***STATE FUNCTIONS***...

LEAVING ***YOU*** FREE TO HANDLE MORE ***IMPORTANT*** BUSINESS!

EXCELLENT, WEISBOGG! THIS IS JUST WHAT THIS KINGDOM ***NEEDS!***

HMMPH! I DON'T ***LIKE*** THIS NEW ATTITUDE AQUAMAN SEEMS TO HAVE DEVELOPED!

BORED AND BOTHERED BY THE DEMONSTRATION, AQUALAD LEAVES...

EVEN THOUGH THEY ***ARE*** BORING, STATE FUNCTIONS ARE SOMETHING A KING SHOULD HANDLE ***HIMSELF***...

IT'S ONE OF THE WAYS A RULER CAN KEEP ***IN TOUCH*** WITH HIS SUBJECTS!

DEEP IN THOUGHT, HE LEAVES THE DOMED KINGDOM...

IF HE RELEGATES ALL "UNIMPORTANT" BUSINESS TO THIS ROBOT, HE MAY END UP COMPLETELY ***CUTTING HIMSELF OFF*** FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC!

...JUST AS CERTAIN ***SURFACE-DWELLING*** RULERS HAVE DONE!

THEN, SUDDENLY...

WHA-?

NO! IT ***CAN'T*** BE!

...THE ***BUGALA!***

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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I REMEMBER THE *LAST* TIME I FOUGHT THIS BEING ...IT WAS A *STRAIN* BUT I WAS ABLE TO USE MY *TELEPATHIC CONTROL* OVER SEA CREATURES TO *EFFECT* IT!

SO, PERHAPS THAT'S ALL I'LL NEED TO *TURN* THE MONSTER *AROUND!*

THE TELEPATHIC COMMANDS EMANATE FROM THE GREAT SEA KING'S BRAIN...HOWEVER...

NO! IT'S *NOT WORKING!* HE SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME *IMMUNE* TO MY POWER!

BUT... THAT'S *STRANGE!* I'M PICKING UP SOME *OTHER* TELEPATHIC EMANATIONS, COMING FROM WITHIN *ATLANTIS ITSELF!*

BUT THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME TO WONDER ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE *THAT!*

IF I CAN'T TURN IT BACK *TELEPATHICALLY* THEN I'LL HAVE TO TRY TO FORCE IT TO TURN BACK!

BUT...

THOK

UNNGH!

SENT FLYING BY THE BUGALA'S BLOW, AQUAMAN SMASHES EMPHATICALLY INTO A WALL OF SOLID CORAL...

GNNNG!

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

QUICKLY NOW, THE MEMORIES RETURN! IT WAS OVER THREE, YEARS AGO THAT AQUALAD FIRST MET THIS HIDEOUS CREATURE AND ENGAGED IT IN MORTAL COMBAT!

...THE DREAD BUGALA, A MONSTROSITY WHOSE ONLY REASON FOR BEING SEEMED TO BE TO DESTROY ANY UNDERSEA COMMUNITY THAT STOOD IN ITS PATH...

IT MUST HAVE FINALLY *DESTROYED* THAT VILLAGE WHERE LAST I MET IT! AND NOW HAS COME HERE TO DESTROY *ATLANTIS!*

I KNOW FROM BITTER EXPERIENCE I CAN'T *POSSIBLY* DEFEAT THIS THING *ALONE!*

MUST GET *BACK* INTO THE KINGDOM! *WARN AQUAMAN!*

BUT THERE IS NO NEED TO WARN THE GREAT SEA KING, FOR EVEN NOW...

THE *BUGALA!* NEVER FIGURED I'D SEE *THAT* THING AGAIN!

GOT TO *STOP* IT-- BEFORE IT REACHES THE *DOME!*

I'VE *FOUGHT* IT *BEFORE*--AND I *KNOW* IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO *SMASH THROUGH* OUR PROTECTIVE DOME!

AQUAMAN, IT'S NEARLY TIME FOR THE *CEREMONY!* THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR IS AWAITING OUR PRESENCE!

I HAVE NO *TIME* FOR THAT! NOT *NOW!*

MR. WEISBOGG, I WOULD SAY THAT THIS IS THE *PERFECT* OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO *TEST* YOUR ROBOT!

...MEANWHILE, *I'VE* GOT A *MONSTER* TO DEAL WITH!

I REMEMBER THE *LAST* TIME I FOUGHT THIS BEING ...IT WAS A *STRAIN* BUT I WAS ABLE TO USE MY *TELEPATHIC CONTROL* OVER SEA CREATURES TO *EFFECT* IT!

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BUT THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME TO WONDER ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE *THAT!*

IF I CAN'T TURN IT BACK *TELEPATHICALLY* THEN I'LL HAVE TO TRY TO FORCE IT TO TURN BACK!

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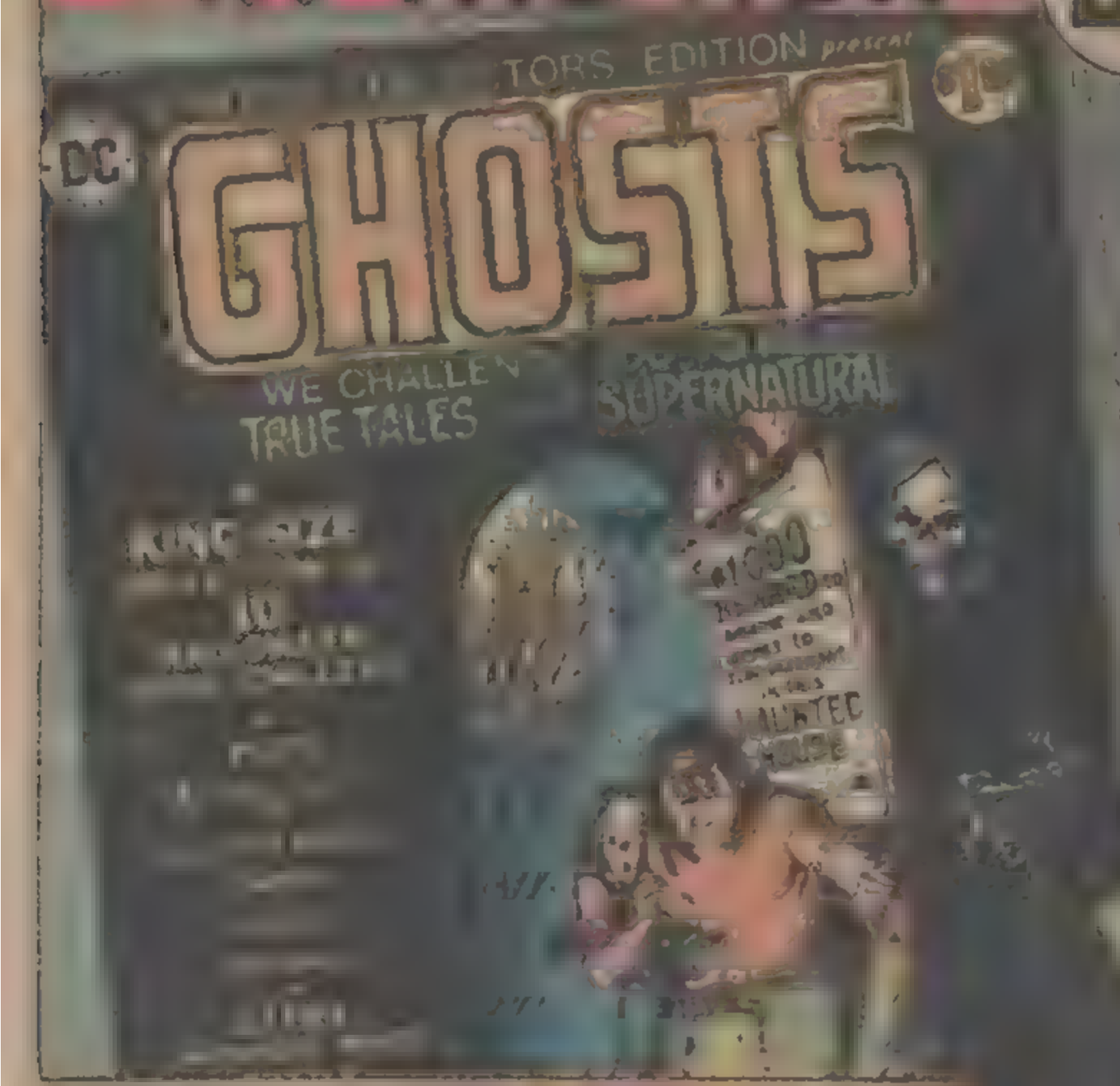

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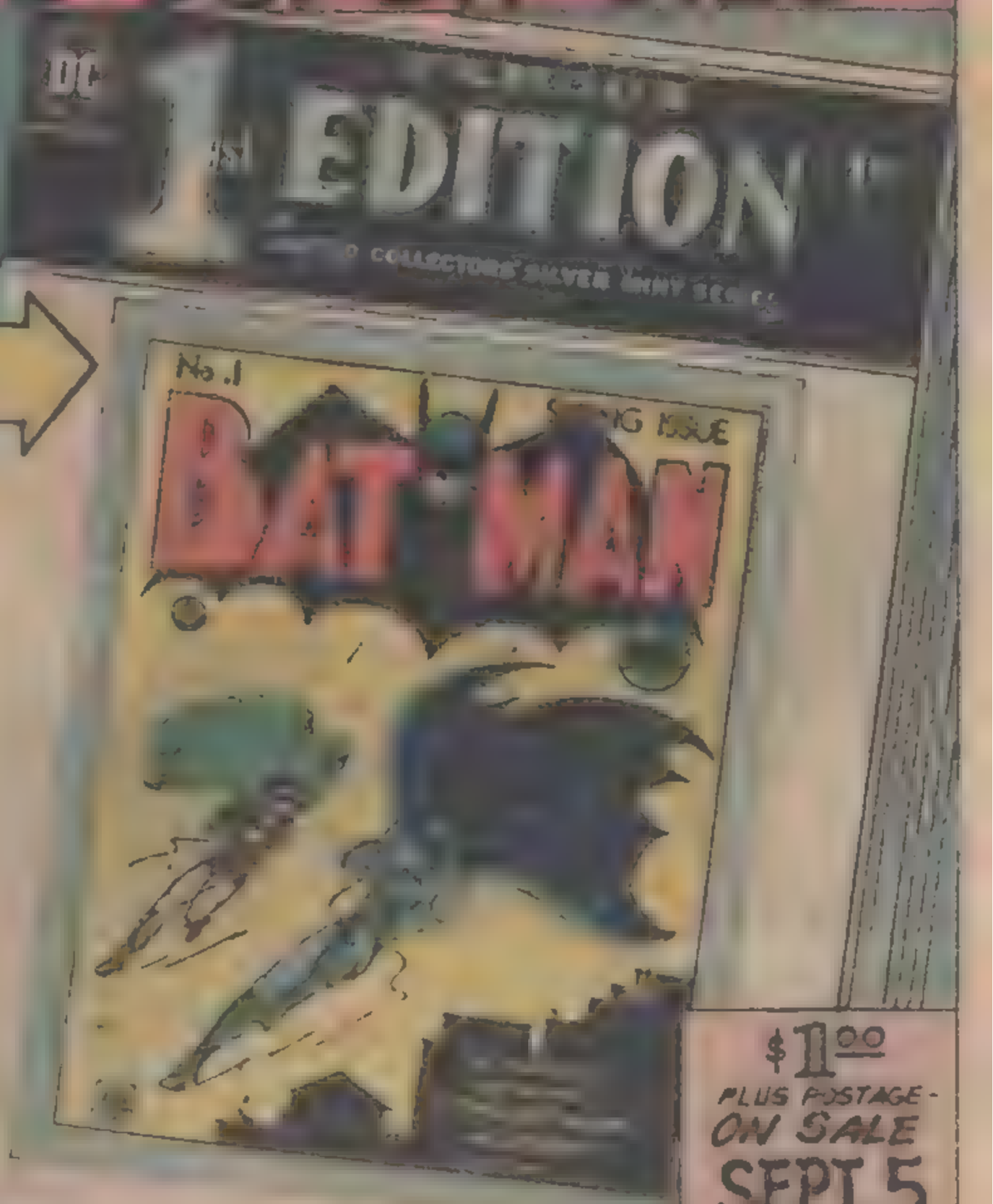

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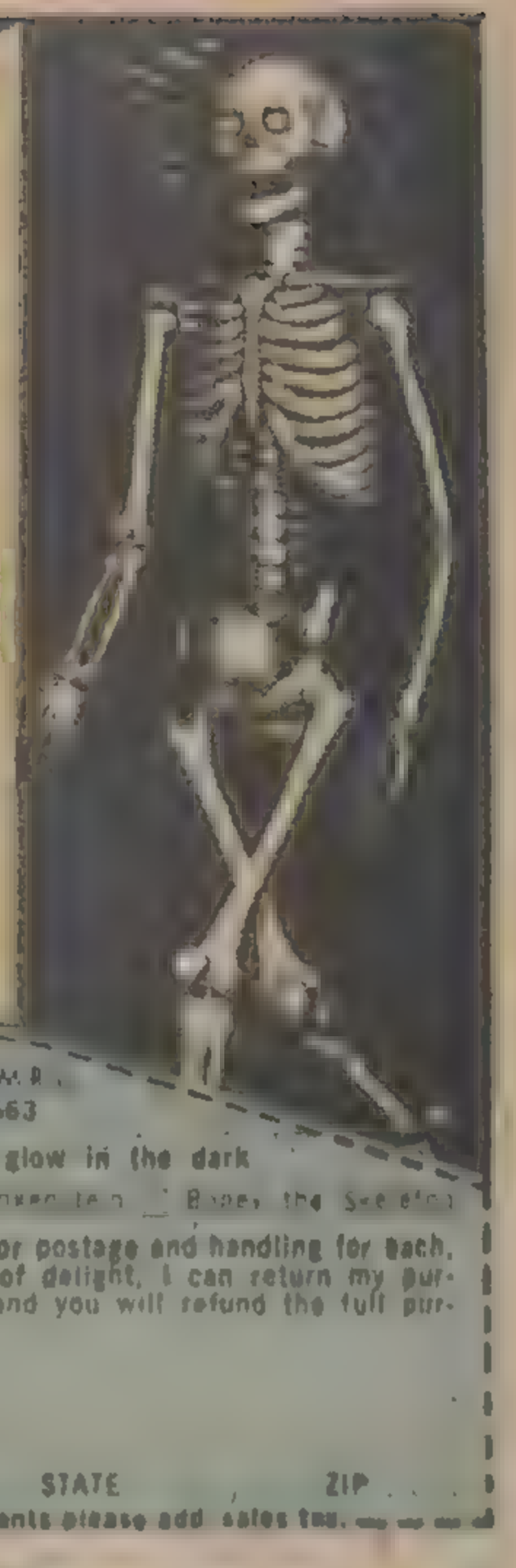

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BUT, THOUGH THE BEATING HE RECEIVED WOULD DOUBTLESS KILL ANY ORDINARY MAN...

...IT SERVES ONLY TO THE DAZE THE SEA KING...

MUSTN'T *PASS OUT! MUSTN'T!*

GOT TO GET BACK UP! STOP THAT THING!

SOMETHING *WRONG* ABOUT THAT BLOW! JUST DIDN'T *FEEL* RIGHT!

I THINK I'VE GOT THIS WHOLE THING *FIGURED* OUT--

--BUT I'VE GOTTA MOVE *FAST!* THAT THING'S ALMOST *REACHED THE DOME!*

TO ANY ON-LOOKER, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE SEA KING SEEKS TO AGAIN BATTLE THE BUGALA...

...BUT THEN HE SHOOTS PAST THE *MONSTROUS* BEAST... ON TOWARD THE ENTRANCE TO THE GREAT DOMED KINGDOM...

AND...

CRASH

I...I DON'T *UNDERSTAND!* WHAT'S THE *MEANING* OF THIS?

SORRY THAT I *DECEIVED* YOU, SIR!

I HAD THIS ROBOT *STAND IN* FOR ME BECAUSE I THOUGHT I WAS DESPERATELY NEEDED *ELSEWHERE!*

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE MY PRESENCE WAS REALLY NEEDED *HERE* AFTER ALL!

?

SCRUNCH

AT THAT SAME MOMENT, JUST OUTSIDE THE GREAT DOME, THE DREAD BUGALA SUDDENLY STOPS IN MID-SWING... FALTERS...

...THEN SLUMPS AND TOPPLES... A PUPPET WITH ITS STRINGS SUDDENLY SEVERED...

KOMP

AND, BACK INSIDE...

I'D BETTER *MAKE* MYSELF *SCARCE* & *FAST!*

HOMEWORK...

NOT SO *FAST*, MY FRIEND! YOU'RE GOING *NOWHERE!*

ULP!

AFTER ALL, MR WESBCGG YOU PLAYED A VERY *INTEGRAL* PART IN THIS MAD SCHEME!

...AND I HAVE *MORE* THAN A *FEW* QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU!

I *FIGURED* SOMETHING WASN'T QUITE RIGHT WHEN I *SENSED* THOSE TELEPATHIC EMANATIONS COMING FROM *WITHIN ATLANTIS!* THEN, WHEN I FELT THE BUGALA'S *PLASTIC-COATED IRON FIST*-- THAT *CINCHED* IT!

THE BUGALA WAS A *ROBOT*-- A VERY *CLEVERLY DESIGNED* ROBOT THAT I *COULDN'T* DESTROY, MAINLY BECAUSE ITS MORE DELICATE INTERNAL WORKINGS WEREN'T *WITHIN* THE *BEAST* ITSELF, BUT WERE *HERE*, INSIDE YOUR REPLICA OF *MYSELF!*

UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, THE PLAN WAS TO *DESTROY THE DOME*, AND THUS MAKE ATLANTIS *VULNERABLE* TO SOME SORT OF *ARMED ATTACK!*

BUT... *WHO* WAS BEHIND IT!? *WHO* PUT YOU UP TO THIS INSANE SCHEME?

NO! I *WON'T* TALK! I'LL *NEVER* TALK!

AND, NOT TOO FAR FROM FAIR ATLANTIS STANDS AN ARMY OF MEN LED BY ONE OF AQUAMAN'S OLDEST FOES, BLACK MANTA.

SOMETHING HAS *GONE WRONG!* THE BLASTED DOME SHOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED *MINUTES* AGO, YET IT IS *STILL INTACT!*

I *KNEW* I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TRUSTED THAT CRAZY INVENTOR! ONCE AGAIN, AQUAMAN HAS MANAGED TO *DEFEAT* ME BEFORE THE BATTLE HAS EVEN *BEGUN!*

BUT I *SWEAR* THAT *SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW*, I'M GOING TO *DEFEAT* AQUAMAN ... AND THUS *RULE ATLANTIS MYSELF!*

SOMEDAY... SOMEDAY SOON!

THE END

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

J 3692

Dear Joe,

I don't think you guys are being quite fair with us. You say you think you've found a permanent star finally in The Spectre. I agree, but then why do we have to go through perhaps two years of The Seven Soldiers of Victory, Aquaman, and Deadman before you select a star?

Mike Verderosa, Stony Brook, New York

You misunderstood our comments. The other series are all intended for the back of ADVENTURE. We were hoping that the Spectre would become permanent when we wrote that page, and the latest sales figures that we've seen indicate that our hopes are more than satisfied. Barring any change in the magazine's sales, the Spectre will remain the star of ADVENTURE until he gets his own magazine (our latest hope).

. . . . .

Dear Joe,

And I thought last issue was great! **Adventure #433** is the best of the new series of Spectre stories. First that Jim Aparo cover! It gave me a chill right up my spine. Then came Mike Fleisher's tight, fast moving and imaginative story. His handling of the strip is great. Gwen is just right for the storyline, but don't put her into every issue. Let Jim and the Spectre stay free from the old routine of rescuing the girl every issue

Captain Fear was the right kind of adventure for your mag, but it could get stale if you use it every issue. Rotating the back-feature a'la Action Comics could be your answer if you widen the amount of features you rotate. Think about it.

Robert Greenberger, Jericho, New York

We are planning to rotate our stars, but not in quite the same style as ACTION COMICS (or DETECTIVE COMICS, for that matter) does. Next issue will present the concluding AQUAMAN story of his current run. Following that the SEVEN SOLDIERS OF VICTORY will be serialized for five issues. Then . . .?

. . . . .

Dear Joe,

The Spectre series in Adventure Comics is quite possibly the most enjoyable super-hero innovation since . . . the Spectre. The Spectre has never ceased to amaze (probably because he has never ceased to be inconsistent) in any of his many resurrections.

Okay, from cover to cover . . . BEAUTIFUL front cover Spooky, and had the greatest coloring I have ever seen. I did not, however, approve of the unofficial retitling of the mag to WEIRD ADVENTURE COMICS. This magazine has stood strong and tall with Adventure Comics emblazoned on the cover for forty years and there is no reason to change.

"The Swami And The Spectre" was extremely well done and possibly the most intriguing story this month. Jim Aparo is so great it drives me crazy. At times I have to stop out of sheer shock and stare at a panel for five minutes. His Spectre is as good as, if not better than, his Batman. He certainly can stick with a mood, which is all-important to the Spectre.

Mike Fleisher introduced some continuity in this issue with the return of Gwen Sterling, who hopefully will pop up in every issue. Mike is certainly competent enough to handle her.

The only good thing about the concluding installment in the Captain Fear saga was that it WAS the concluding installment

I am anxious to see the Seven Soldiers of Victory . . . it is sure to be a classic, and a comix first . it isn't often that it takes 29 years to find artists for a story! Hopefully they will be successful enough to warrant their own magazine.

Keep up the good work!

Bob Rodi, Oak Brook, Ill.

The use of WEIRD on the logo is one calculated to attract mystery readers to the Spectre, a mystery super-hero. It is not necessarily a permanent change, and we don't think it's anything to get too upset about.

. . . . . /

Dear Joe,

I notice you mention the new upcoming serialized Seven Soldiers story. I hope it's to replace the Capt. Fear strip, and not the Spectre! You'd really be hard put to beat what Mike and Jim are turning out for you in that department. And who are those 'half-dozen favorite artists' you mentioned? Could I ask for some names? Will you answer me, if I do?

Anyway . . .

Just out of curiosity, does J. Aparo do his own lettering? It seems different from most standard lettering.

Steve Clement, Pawtucket, R.I.

Favorite artists, you want, favorite artists you'll get: the chapters already in work (artwork, that is) are by: Dick Dillin, Lee Elias (returning to GREEN ARROW after ten years), and Howie Chaykin (on the SHINING KNIGHT). And yes, Jim does letter all his own art.

. . . . .

NEXT ISSUE: THE SPECTRE in another classic, and AQUAMAN facing "A Quiet Day In Atlantis." But don't just sit around waiting for it—write us. Our address is: DATELINE: ADVENTURE, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019.

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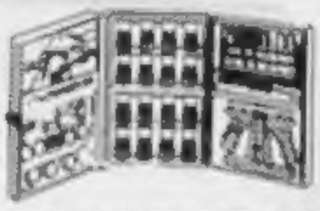
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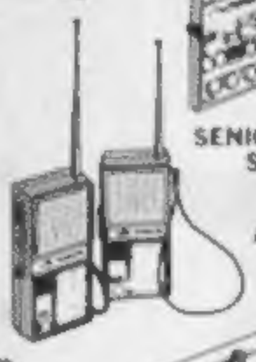
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AN ENTRY BLANK FOR THIS SUPER CONTEST IS CONTAINED IN EVERY ONE OF MONOGRAM'S BIG-SCALE KITS (Elegant Beetle, Muscle Bug, Satan's Cycle, Grim Reaper and Vampire).

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THE CONTEST ENDS FEB. 15TH 1975.

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